

**KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND
CONSERVATION FUND**



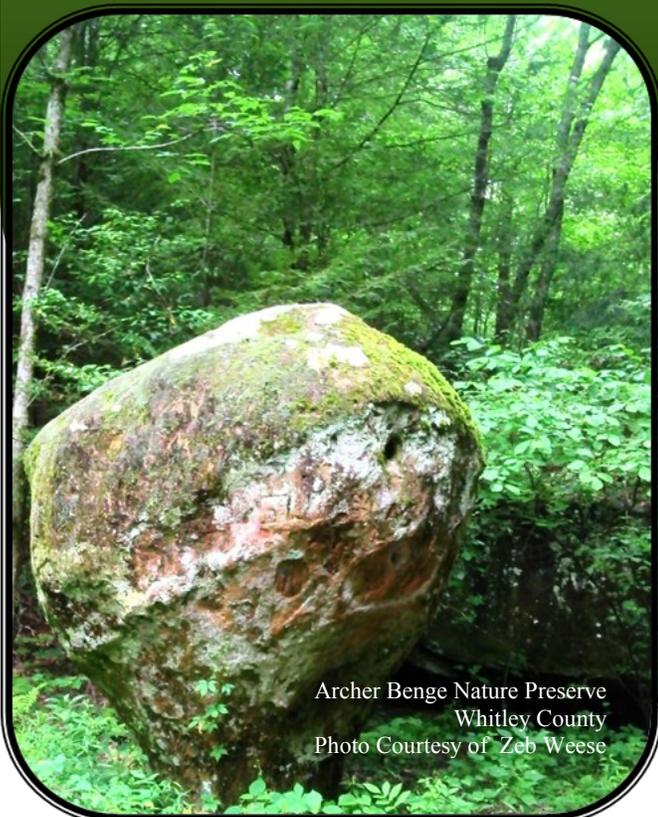
**ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2013**

Cover Photo - Dr. William H. Martin Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area
Photo Courtesy of Joe Dietz

KENTUCKY HERITAGE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

Kentucky has an invaluable natural heritage recognized nationally and internationally for its outstanding, productive, biologically and geologically diverse lands and waters. The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund is committed to protecting these diverse lands and “Keeping Kentucky Green” by awarding grant funds to purchase and preserve the state’s natural lands in perpetuity for enjoyment by this and future generations.

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund dollars have been awarded to protect and conserve some of Kentucky’s best known natural areas: old-growth hardwoods at Blanton Forest in eastern Kentucky; savannah woodlands at Griffith Woods as well as parts of the Kentucky River Palisades in central Kentucky; urban forests at the Jefferson Memorial Forest in the state’s largest city; bat populations and caves in southern Kentucky; cliff-lined valleys along the banks of the Martin’s Fork Wild River in Harlan County; and diverse watershed and wetland areas with endangered mussel species at the Green River State Forest in the western part of the state.



Archer Benge Nature Preserve
Whitley County
Photo Courtesy of Zeb Weese



Shelby Trails Park
Shelby County
Photo Courtesy of Horace Brown

Letter from Dr. Richard K. Kessler, KHLCF Chairman

The year 2013 has been one of milestones for the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF). First, the fund surpassed the 80,000-acre mark in protected lands. Secondly we bid a sad but appreciative farewell to longtime Board Chairman Dr. William H. Martin, after serving nearly 20 years in this capacity. I could not think of a more fitting first act as incoming chairman than to recognize Bill's significant contribution with the naming of the last KHLCF tract purchased under his leadership as the William H. Martin Watershed and Conservation Area, a large tract of scenic mature woodlands and waterways purchased by the Kentucky Division of Water's Wild Rivers Program in Pulaski County and part of the Rockcastle River watershed. The success of KHLCF to date is due in no small part to Bill's strong leadership and commitment to the conservation of Kentucky's landscapes and natural resources.

It is my sincere hope that we continue this pattern of success established under the leadership of my colleague and friend so that we will realize the next 80,000 acres even sooner than the first! But there are significant challenges in our path. The lands that protect our natural resources, habitats, and waterways are under great pressure. Much land is either unavailable for purchase or is under threat of permanent development, non-point pollution, habitat destruction or invasive species.

As these threats persist, funding has remained limited making it difficult to adequately assist local and state governments, colleges and universities, and non-governmental conservation organizations in addressing these threats with land acquisition and resource management. The board must continue to seek ways to maintain or increase our funding in difficult fiscal times. While the "Nature's Finest" license plates continue to be top sellers, they do not supply the same amount of funding they once did due to extreme competition with other plates even though they are arguably the best looking plates on Kentucky's roads! A recent change in the KHLCF legislation that now allows non-profit conservation organizations such as land trusts to apply for funds provided they supply a 50 percent cash match will help. But more is needed to ensure the protection of Kentucky's natural legacy.

In addition, we are challenged to provide opportunities for the children of the Commonwealth to experience nature firsthand so that the "last child in the woods" never exists. It should be noted that many of the 80,698.97 acres purchased with assistance of the KHLCF provide opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking and nature observation and enjoyment by all citizens of the Commonwealth but, most importantly, by our children.



Passing of the gavel
(left) Dr. Richard Kessler (right) Dr. William Martin
Photo courtesy of Joe Dietz

In spite of the many challenges facing KHLCF, I am confident that the Board and support staff will continue to make great strides in protecting the lands that support threatened and endangered species, are subject to natural alteration, provide habitat for migratory wildlife and serve as important areas for environmental education. Thanks to the support of the Commonwealth and the initial work of conservation stalwart, Dr. William H. Martin, I will continue to describe the KHLCF as I have in the past as perhaps the most commonsense piece of environmental legislation to date in Kentucky!

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Mission

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF) is the primary source of state funding for the purchase of natural areas and is committed to protecting and conserving our Commonwealth's precious natural areas for enjoyment by this and future generations. Each property funded by the KHLCF is protected in perpetuity by a conservation easement or deed restriction.

The fund was established by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Act in 1990. This legislation established priorities for property acquisitions including:

- natural areas that possess unique features such as habitat for rare and endangered species;
- areas important to migratory birds;
- areas that perform important natural functions subject to alteration or loss;
- areas to be preserved in their natural state for public use, outdoor recreation and education.

The fund is managed by the 12-member Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board appointed by the governor. Revenue for the fund comes from the state portion of the unmined minerals tax, environmental fines, sale of Kentucky nature license plates and interest. By statute, the Environmental Education Council receives \$150,000 of environmental fines each year for environmental education programs and the Department for Energy Development and Independence receives \$400,000 of unmined minerals tax for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues.

Remaining funds are distributed as follows:

10%	Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
10%	Department of Parks
10%	Division of Forestry
10%	Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
10%	Kentucky Division of Water, Wild Rivers Program
50%	Local Governments, State Colleges, Universities, Nonprofit Trust Organizations and Other Public Agencies

Organizationally and administratively, the KHLCF is attached to the Department for Natural Resources.

To receive program funding, eligible agencies must submit an application identifying the priority the project addresses; an enumeration of costs; a budget indicating how at least 10 percent of the acquisition cost will be spent for management; and a preliminary resource management plan for the project. During FY 2013, the board held four regularly scheduled quarterly meetings to consider applications for funding.

If the project is approved, each agency has two years to acquire the property unless an extension to purchase is submitted for approval by the board. Agencies have two and one - half years after the property is purchased to submit a final resource management plan for review and approval.



Knotted Trillium
Lower Howard's Creek
Photo Courtesy of Elena Morgan

KHLCF Accomplishments

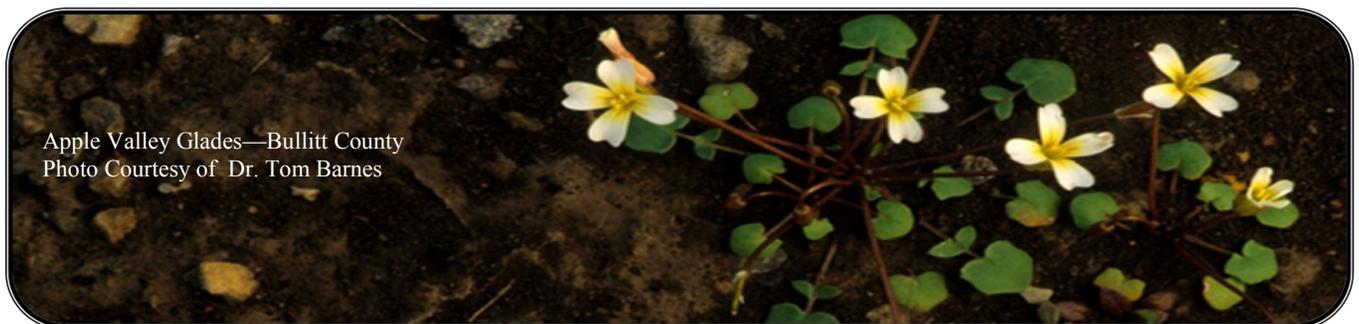
Since 1995, the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board has played an integral part in helping state agencies, local governments, and state colleges and universities protect and conserve over 80,698.95 acres of Kentucky's natural areas and habitats. To date, the fund has provided financial support, in whole and/or in part, to acquire 111 sites in 67 counties. There have been 69,776.89 acres conserved by state agencies and / or multiple-agency partnerships, 9,350.86 acres conserved by local governments and conservation districts, and 1,571.20 acres conserved by universities.

Summary of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Efforts as of 1995 - June 2013			
Applicant	Number of Projects	Acreage Conserved	Funding*
Fish and Wildlife Resources	7	40,445.18	\$ 7,643,255.59
Division of Forestry	5	3,166.56	\$ 3,132,524.85
State Nature Preserves Commission	29	9,459.98	\$ 7,438,285.77
Department of Parks	9	2,294.83	\$ 3,459,980.44
Division of Water, Wild Rivers	7	3,870.25	\$ 5,042,020.77
Multiple Agency Partners	5	10,540.09	\$ 5,523,455.86
County Governments	29	6,815.68	\$ 12,349,824.82
City Governments	7	523.19	\$ 1,590,425.25
Metro Governments	3	903.82	\$ 2,815,083.15
Colleges/Universities	5	1,571.20	\$ 3,533,172.86
Conservation Districts	5	1,108.17	\$ 3,353,434.40
Totals:	111	80,698.95	\$ 55,881,463.76

**Includes both acquisition and management costs.*

A list of all properties purchased in whole or in part with KHLCF funding is contained in Addendum 1 Page 13 through 15.

Since 1995, the board has approved 217 projects in 72 counties.



Apple Valley Glades—Bullitt County
Photo Courtesy of Dr. Tom Barnes

FY 2013 In Review

In FY 2013, a total of 2,544.64 acres of Kentucky's natural lands in seven different counties were conserved with funding assistance from the KHLCF.

- Local governmental units and universities conserved some 198.49 acres in Clark, Hart, Shelby and Taylor counties.
- The Division of Water - Wild Rivers Program conserved 458.96 acres in Pulaski County.
- The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission has made the largest purchase of FY 2013. In Whitley County, it purchased a total of 1,863 acres, Faulkner and Terry tracts, respectively in an area known as the Archer Benge State Nature Preserve.

In addition, 15 project applications were reviewed and approved by the board in FY 2013. Funding awards totaling over \$4.9 million were approved for the proposed acquisition and management of more than 2,200 acres located throughout the state. Local governments/university projects were approved in Campbell, Clark, Clinton, Hart, Henry, Kenton and Taylor counties. State agency projects were approved in Boone, Bullitt, Crittenden, Franklin, Grayson, Letcher, Lincoln, McCreary and Wayne counties.

In October 2012, the KHLCF presented two Stewardship Awards for outstanding land management and conservation efforts. The recipients were Livingston County Fiscal Court for the Livingston County Wildlife Management Area and Logan County Conservation District for the Baker Natural Area.



The awards recognize excellent stewardship of a KHLCF competitive project with an approved Final Resource Management Plan (FRMP) and were presented at the 2012 Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment.

2012 KHLCF Stewardship Award Presentation to Logan County Conservation District for Baker Natural Area.
Photo courtesy of Creative Services



2012 KHLCF Stewardship Award Presentation to Livingston County Fiscal Court for the Livingston County Wildlife Management Area.
Photo courtesy of Creative Services

FY 2013 Approved Projects

Competitive Grants

Atchley Mill – Taylor County Fiscal Court

The land known as Tate Atchley Mill is a relatively small piece of property located near the Taylor County and Green County lines. The property is home to what remains of the old mill, a waterfall that flows into the Green River, a lush forest and several springs. Acquisition will help protect a section of the Green River and the spring on the property from residential development, as well as protect and enhance existing riparian features of the property. It is anticipated that this property would be ideal for nature hikes, photography, picnics and scenic observation.

Hidden River Cave Addition and Bioinventory – City of Horse Cave

Hidden River Cave, originally known as Horse Cave, is a cave system that extends for more than 10 miles under the city of Horse Cave in the karstlands of south central Kentucky. The cave is part of the international Biosphere Reserve for Mammoth Cave National Park and contains a large subterranean river, featuring one of the most scenic and accessible cave entrances in the United States. The Hidden River Cave system drains to the Green River through approximately 40 springs, including Kentucky's largest spring, Gorin Mill Spring. The cave itself contains a diverse aquatic habitat of typical cave species. Additional Bioinventory is needed to determine if rare species, which have yet to be identified, exist. The entrance to the cave was purchased several years ago with KHLCF money.

Six Mile Creek Conservation Area – Kentucky State University

The 300-acre project site will be acquired and managed by the KSU. The purpose of the project is to study the natural world through long-term monitoring projects and to perpetually protect this tract of land from development and encroachment. This project's proposed activities include limited public educational use and outdoor recreation. On a state wide basis, undergraduate and graduate students will study and research elements of native ecosystems through outdoor laboratories. This is in addition to the 305 acres KSU Environmental Education and Research Center funded by the KHLCF.

Upper Green River Cave Biological Preserve – Lawler Bend

The upper Green River and its tributaries are centers of diversity for fresh water mussels and fish. The Lawler Bend extension to the Upper Green River Biological Preserve consists of two tracts totaling 350 acres of land situated on the north bank of the Green River upstream of the Upper Green River Biological Preserve, and one 25-acre tract across the river on the south bank. The property provides critical breeding and migratory habitat for neotropical songbirds along the Green River corridor. It is also the site of a Great Blue Heron rookery that often contains as many as 20 nests. The KHLCF has previously funded 1,160 acres for Western Kentucky University on the Green River.

The following projects received additional funding in FY 2013:

- Clay Hill Memorial Forest in Taylor County
- Park Lake Extension 2 in Fleming County
- St. Anne's Wetlands in Campbell County
- Jefferson Memorial Forest for the Samuels and Peterson tracts in Jefferson County
- Little South Fork-Self Tract in Wayne and McCreary counties



FY 2013 Approved Projects

Mixed Funding Projects (State Agencies and Competitive Grants)

Additional funding has been awarded for the Big Rivers Corridor – Phase II in Crittenden County to the Division of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. These awards will fund a 4,000 - acre addition to the 2,500-acre Big Rivers Wildlife Management Area funded by KHLCF in 2012.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Apple Valley Glades – Perkins Addition

This project site is located east of Shepherdsville in northern Bullitt County and seeks to preserve one of the few remaining examples of native prairie, barrens and glade communities found in Kentucky. The glades at this site are characterized by outcrops of bare rock covered in places by a thin layer of gravelly soil. The seemingly austere habitat is populated by a rather unique plant, glade cress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*).

Acquisition and subsequent dedication of the project will result in the creation of the Apple Valley Glades State Nature Preserve. The KHLCF purchased the adjacent Poteet Tract in FY 2012.

Brown Addition to Bouteloua Barrens State Nature Preserve

Bouteloua Barrens State Nature Preserve, located east of Sanford in Lincoln County, is a large native grassland remnant that covers a gently rolling area in the Outer Bluegrass region. The current project tract protects habitat for the preserve's namesake *Bouteloua curtipendula*, side oats grama grass, and other native barrens species. The remainder of the tract will provide additional buffer land surrounding the grassland community to protect it from external threats such as off-road vehicle use. The addition to the preserve will also allow KSNPC to improve the vehicular access it now has that passes through some low areas.

Swallowfield Baxley State Nature Preserve

This site located north of Swallowfield in Franklin County includes a deep west-facing hollow that drains directly into the Kentucky River. The project site is mostly covered in forest of variable quality. The flatter upland and ridge top portions have been cleared in the past and some areas have regrown cedar, box elder and other successional trees. The slopes above the deep ravine are higher quality, and it is here that Braun's Rockcress is found. This plant was listed as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1955, and is unique to the Kentucky River drainage in Kentucky. In FY 2011, the KHLCF awarded funds to purchase the adjacent Faulkner Tract.



Cypripedium parviflorum
Natural Bridge State Park
Photo Courtesy of Zeb Weese

Terry Tract Addition to Archer Benge State Nature Preserve

Laurel Fork that flows along the base of Pine Mountain in Whitley County flows through the Terry Tract, forming the eastern boundary of the preserve. The project site is approximately 272-acres; it will be acquired, dedicated, and managed as a State Nature Preserve. It will protect a portion of a significant forest block that supports habitat for a federally listed mussel and globally rare species including the Rock Harlequin, Cumberland Arrow Darter and Blue Mountainmint.

Wagner Tract at Bad Branch State Nature Preserve

Acquisition of this property will add approximately 100 acres to an existing 2,639 nature preserve and protect additional acreage on the diverse north face of Pine Mountain. It will also allow protection of several rock shelters and head water streams to the north fork of the Kentucky River, while providing a buffer for the preserve and the Pine Mountain Trail. The tract is completely forested and diverse in a canopy and mid-story tree species. The forest floor is rich and contains a diverse array of herbaceous species.

FY 2013 Approved Projects

DOW – Wild Rivers Program

Dr. William H. Martin Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area

The Meek Tract consists of approximately 583 acres in Pulaski County. The entire parcel resides in the Rockcastle River watershed within the Rockcastle Wild River Corridor. The property includes approximately 0.5 miles of frontage on the Rockcastle River and 90 acres of Rockcastle River Corridor with several surrounding tracts already in public ownership (Daniel Boone National Forest). The tract is habitat for several federal and state listed species and has potential for passive outdoor recreation and education.

Red River – Smith Property

The Smith Tract extension consists of approximately 163 acres in Wolfe County. The property contains a large amount of *Myotis sodalis* (Indiana bat), *Corynorhinus townsendii* (Virginia big-eared bat) as well as many other bat species. The property also provides breeding and migratory habitat for neotropical songbirds by offering protection to many rare and endangered species of bats and migratory birds through the importance of the riparian corridor. The KHLFC funded the adjacent 139 acres previously.

Division of Parks

Piner Addition to Big Bone Lick State Park

This tract will add approximately 236 acres to the existing Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, located in northern Kentucky. The site is well known for its prehistoric past, in that it contains remains of America's early animal inhabitants. The Piner property has records of several locations of a federally endangered species known as Running Buffalo Clover, a rare plant indigenous to this area, and provides habitat for the endangered Indiana Bat. As a state park, the area can provide future resource-based recreational activities, as well as opportunities for scientific research and education.

In FY 2013 a total of 13 project applications were reviewed and awarded funding. The breakdown of this total is:

- Universities 2
- City/County Governments 2
- Parks 1
- KSNPC 5
- DOW –Wild Rivers 3



A total of 5,161,095 was approved to purchase an estimated 2867 acres of additional natural lands. The funds came from current year receipts plus funds from previously approved projects that could not be acquired. Of the total approved, 84 percent was approved for land purchase, 6 percent approved for pre-acquisition costs (appraisals, title and survey work), and the remaining 10 percent approved for management activities. It is important to note the percentage of funds approved for management does not include the management dollars proposed to be provided by local agencies and universities.

FY 2013 Approved Projects

GRANTS	COUNTY	AWARD*
<u>Competitive</u>		
Upper Green River Biological Preserve Extension 3-Lawler Bend	Hart	
Additional Funding for Clay Hill Memorial Forest	Hart	
Additional Funding for Park Lake Extension 2	Fleming	
City of Horse Cave-Hidden River Cave Addition and Bioinventory	Hart	
Kentucky State University-Six Mile Creek	Henry	
Taylor County Fiscal Court-Atchley Mill	Taylor	
Campbell County Conservation District-St. Anne's Wetlands Addl. Funds	Campbell	
Samuels and Peterson Archaeological Survey	Jefferson	
Total Competitive		\$ 2,328,155
<u>State Agency Grants</u>		
KSNPC		
Swallowfield Baxley State Nature Preserve	Franklin	
Apple Valley Glades-Perkins Tract	Bullitt	
Brown Addition to Bouteloua Barrens	Lincoln	
Wagner Tract at Bad Branch	Letcher	
Terry Tract Addition to Archer Bengie State Nature Preserve	Whitley	
Total Nature Preserves Commission		\$ 559,250
Department of Parks		
Piner Addition to Big Bone Lick State Park	Boone	
Total Department of Parks		\$ 244,500
DOW-Wild Rivers		
Little South Fork-Self Tract-Additional Funds	Wayne/McCreary	
Rockcastle River- Meek Tract	Pulaski	
Red River - Smith Property	Wolfe	
Total DOW-Wild Rivers		\$ 2,580,250
Division of Forestry		
Big Rivers Phase II-Additional Funds	Crittenden	
Total Division of Forestry		\$ 990,000
Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources		
Big Rivers Phase II-Additional Funding	Crittenden	
Total Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources		\$ 1,000,000
Total State Agency		\$ 5,374,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$ 7,702,155

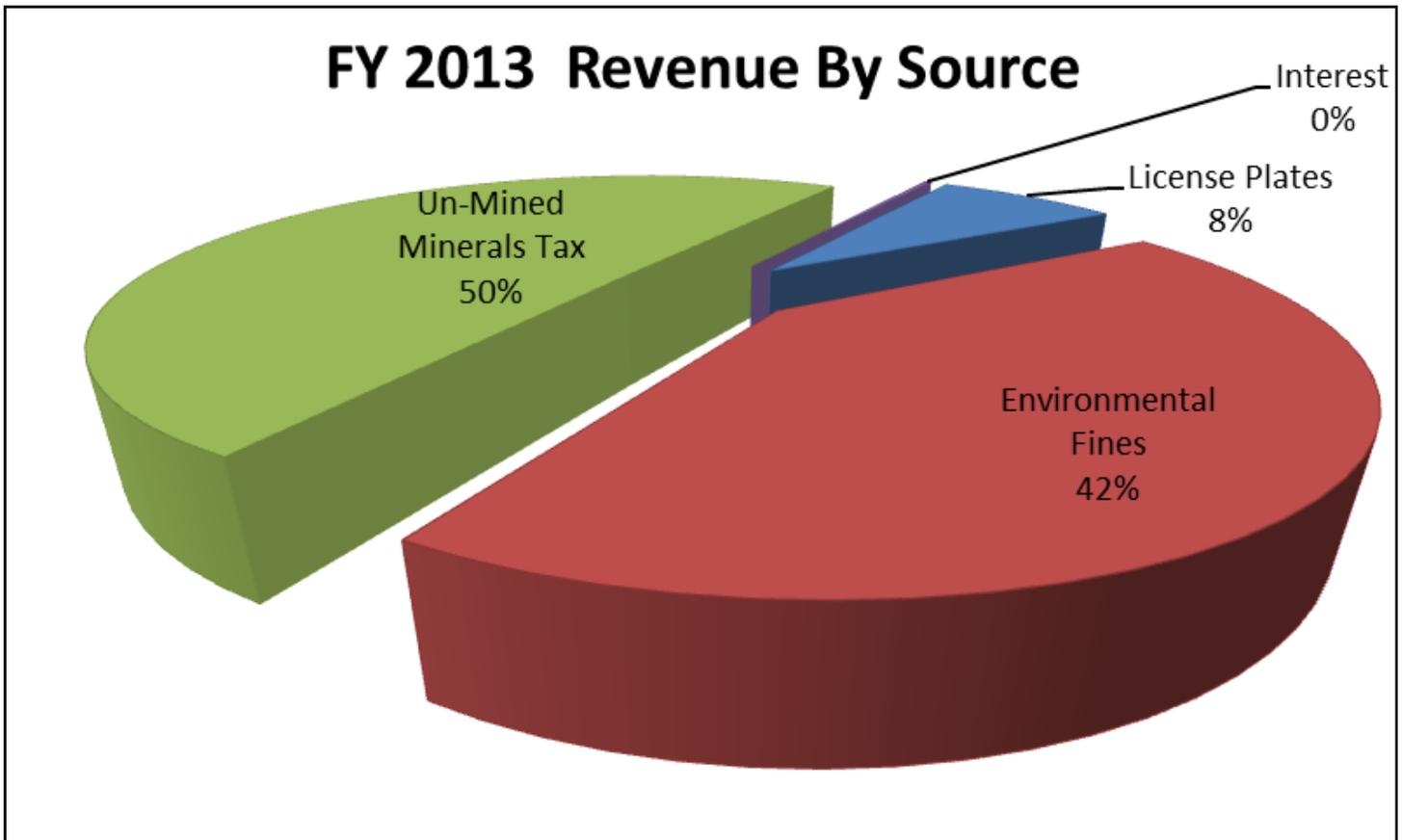
Financial Information

Funding for the KHLCF is generated from the sale of three nature license plates, the state portion of unmined mineral tax, environmental fines and interest income. For FY 2013 receipts were over \$5 million with over \$2 million in transfers and expenditures.

The total revenue for FY 2013 was approximately \$341,126 lower than FY 2012 levels. As shown on Table 4 (Page 10), revenue generated from environmental fines increased by roughly \$132,475 while unmined mineral tax revenue decreased by \$49,428. Interest income and license plates sales revenue continued to decline as well; revenue generated from nature license plates sales fell by \$140,870 from FY 2012, and interest income was down \$14,433.

Table 4 also demonstrates the volatility and unpredictability of our revenue sources from year to year. In the last five years, revenue from fines has seen a steady increase, while revenues from unmined minerals has increased from FY 2009 to FY 2012, but decreased in FY 2013.

License plate sales have been decreasing dramatically particularly the last two fiscal years. Interest income has been the most volatile over the last five years.

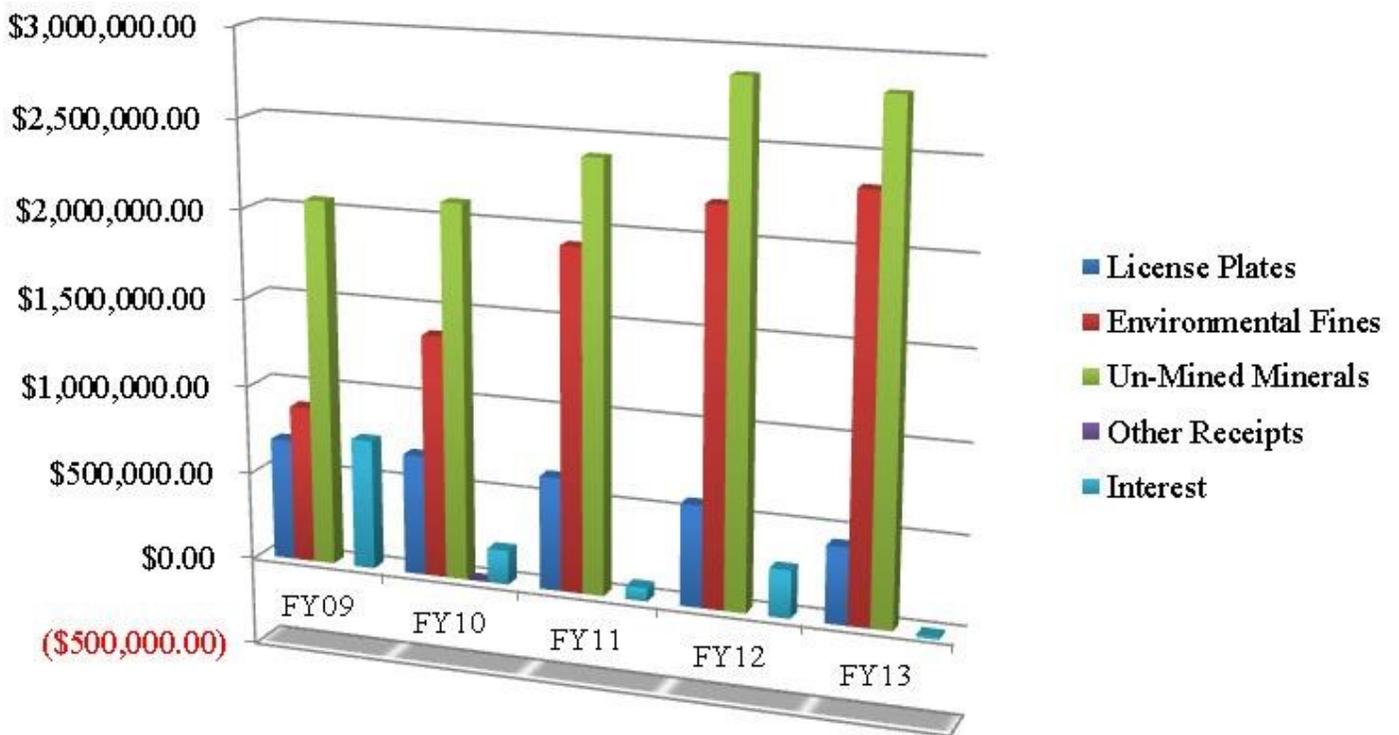


KHLCF Revenue

Table 4

5-Year Receipts by Source	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
License Plates	\$688,102.50	\$678,116.50	\$638,470	\$571,970	\$431,100
Environmental Fines	\$887,489.89	\$1,363,883.68	\$1,918,713.01	\$2,199,707.55	\$2,332,183.04
Unmined Tax	\$2,059,200.77	\$2,102,782.94	\$2,399,253.17	\$2,870,185.73	\$2,820,757.75
Other Receipts		\$1100			
Interest	\$734,164.97	\$193,245.36	\$74,110.72	\$268,871	(\$14,432.57)
TOTAL	\$4,368,958	\$4,339,128	\$5,030,547	\$5,910,734	\$5,569,608

Revenue By Source 5-Year Comparison



Department for Energy Development and Independence Coal Education Awards



Excerpt from the DEDI 2013 Annual Report

Kentucky Revised Statute 132.020(5) authorizes funding to the Energy and Environment Cabinet from the un-mined minerals tax collected each year for the purpose of public education of coal-related issues. DEDI has the responsibility to solicit proposals each year.

The department selected seven projects for FY 2013, which are highlighted below:

Southern Education Foundation- \$88,700

The Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College will manage the Coal Museum Portal 31 to inform visitors and students about the history of coal mining and life in the coal fields*.

Coal Education Development and Resource (CEDAR) - \$85,000

CEDAR will use its grant to develop coal educational materials and sponsor a coal fair for K-12 students in 12 Eastern Kentucky counties.

Coal Education Development and Resource (CEDAR)- \$50,000

CEDAR will use the grant to develop coal educational materials and sponsor a coal fair for K-12 students in 6 western Kentucky counties.

Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) - \$39,300

KGS will create a new Internet mapping service that places Kentucky coal resources information in a geographical visualization environment.

Bluegrass PRIDE - \$55,000

PRIDE will sponsor coal education programs for K-12 students in central Kentucky counties that include teacher curriculum materials and an Energy Tour.

KY National Energy Education Project (NEED) - \$80,500

NEED will bring coal and energy education to more than 100 of Kentucky's K-12 educators and approximately 9,600 Kentucky students from across the state while hosting four one-day workshops and hosting the Kentucky Energy Tour.

University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER) - \$39,000

CAER will continue the development of the energy education club at the University of Kentucky and charter clubs at other interested Kentucky colleges and universities.

*For more information visit <http://energy.ky.gov>

Kentucky Environmental Education Council



Kentucky Environmental Education Council Executive Summary

2013 Annual Report to the Heritage Conservation Land Fund Board

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) has the broad mandate of ensuring an environmentally literate citizenry by coordinating environmental education in the Commonwealth. Environmental literacy is defined as having the ability to recognize the components of healthy natural and man-made systems and the actions necessary to maintain, restore, or improve them. Agency resources and programs are designed to offer tools and resources that help educators use the environment as a theme for teaching all subject areas. Per KRS 157.915, the agency convenes an Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE), which met four times in FY 2013.

The KEEC continues to play a leadership role in development of the Capitol Education Center (CEC), a special project initiated by Kentucky's First Lady Jane Beshear. The CEC Grand Opening occurred in February 2013. Hands-on exhibits, touch screen kiosks, and demonstration technologies featured at the CEC cover topics such as sustainability, civic engagement, history, geography, and tourism in Kentucky. KEEC partnered with the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) and the First Lady's office to coordinate the first ever Earth Day at the Capitol event, where the First Lady recognized Pikeville High School and West Hardin Middle School for their accomplishments in KEEC's Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program (KGHS). Additional school districts, schools, students and administrators were recognized for improving energy efficiency by First Lady Beshear and EEC Secretary Len Peters.

This year, program enrollment in the KGHS program grew to over 260 participating schools in more than 70 counties. An annual awards ceremony recognized students for improving the health and environmental sustainability of their school buildings and grounds. Learn more about Kentucky's Green and Healthy Schools program at greenschools.ky.gov.

The agency must find outside funding to maintain current program and staff levels. In FY13, KEEC received a grant to support implementation of the Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan (KELP), a collaborative effort between KEEC, KDE, and several partner organizations. The KEEC and KELP Implementation Advisory Team are continuing their ground-breaking work in correlating national environmental education standards with national education standards, including the Next Generation Science Standards (to be released in October 2013). The KELP and correlation documents are available at keec.ky.gov/publications.

In 2013, KEEC launched a review and revision process for its Non-formal Environmental Education Certification program. The course has been renamed the "Professional Environmental Educator Certification." Additional changes will ensure compliance with newly released national accreditation standards. Kentucky's Environmental Educator Certification program continues to be a model for the nation. KEEC has a total of 137 graduates since the program began in 2004. The revamped course will launch in November 2013.

KEEC hired an interim information officer this year. This position has greatly improved agency communication and outreach. This summer, KEEC launched its first agency-wide newsletter, which incorporates the KGHS program newsletter. To increase its social media presence, KEEC is now on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Additionally, KEEC is transitioning to a new, more user-friendly website format for the agency (keec.ky.gov) and green schools websites. The agency also operates EEinKentucky.org, a one-stop shop for environmental education in Kentucky. The website is user-driven and searchable by topic or zip code. If an organization offers environmental education resources, including access to natural lands, KEEC encourages them to sign up and post events. The website is free of charge for all Kentuckians offering and searching for environmental education resources.

**For more information visit <http://keec.ky.gov>*

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2013

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Allen	Carpenter Cave CE	KSNPC	14.30
Ballard	Axe Lake Swamp SNP	KSNPC	311.99
Ballard	Boatwright WMA	KDFWR	1177.00
Barren	Brigadoon SNP	KSNPC	91.88
Barren	Mutter's Cave CE	KSNPC	108.28
Bell	Kentucky Ridge SF/WMA	KDF and KDFWR	3782.38
Bell, Pike, Harlan, Letcher	Pine Mountain Scenic Trail	Kentucky State Parks	500.94
Boone	Boone Cliffs	Boone County Fiscal Court	75.42
Boone	Dinsmore Woods	Boone County Fiscal Court	104.52
Boone	Gunpowder Creek	Boone County Fiscal Court	125.98
Boyle	Perryville Battlefield	Kentucky State Parks	75.81
Breckinridge	Wildlife Education Park	Breckinridge County Fiscal Court	25.19
Breckinridge	Yellowbank WMA	KDFWR	1332.31
Bullitt	Apple Valley Glades SNP	KSNPC	69.23
Bullitt	Knobs State Forest	KDF	1539.59
Calloway	Blood River SNP	KSNPC	192.56
Calloway	Fort Heiman	Calloway County Fiscal Court	167.00
Campbell	Hawthorne Crossing	Campbell Conservation District	134.69
Carter	Carter Caves State Park	Kentucky State Parks	107.54
Carter	Olive Hill Reservoir	City of Olive Hill	214.64
Carter	Tygart's State Forest	KDF	255.03
Christian	Bob Overton Cave	KSNPC	54.82
Christian, Caldwell	Pennyrile State Forest	KDF	200.57
Clark	Civil War Earthenworks Fort	Clark County Fiscal Court	25.38
Clark	Lower Howard's Creek Nature and Heritage Preserve	Clark County Fiscal Court	346.59
Daviess	Greenbelt Trail	City of Owensboro	25.00
Daviess	Yellow Creek Park	Daviess County Fiscal Court	1.43
Estill	Lily Mountain	Estill Conservation District	349.54
Fayette	Raven Run Nature Sanctuary	LFUCG	353.38
Fleming	Clay Wildlife WMA	KDFWR	811.03
Fleming	Park Lake Mountain	Fleming County Fiscal Court	821.13
Fleming	Short's Goldenrod SNP	KSNPC	209.89
Franklin	Cove Springs Park	City of Frankfort	93.99
Franklin	Feindel CE	KSNPC	65.74
Franklin	Julian Savanna SNP	KSNPC	42.43
Franklin	River Cliffs SNP	KSNPC	210.19
Franklin	Rockcress Hills SNP	KSNPC	66.66
Garrard	Tom Dorman SNP	KSNPC	802.95
Graves	Terrapin Creek SNP	KSNPC	98.60
Green	Glenview Nature Preserve	Green County Fiscal Court	168.07
Green	Wyatt Jeffries Woods	Green County Fiscal Court	57.15

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2013

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Hardin	Eastview Barrens SNP	KSNPC	119.14
Hardin	Jim Scudder SNP	KSNPC	172.66
Hardin	Springhouse Barrens SNP	KSNPC	55.78
Harlan	Blanton Forest SNP	KSNPC	1246.00
Harlan	Hi Lewis Barrens SNP	KSNPC	302.00
Harlan	James E. Bickford SNP	KSNPC	347.84
Harlan	Kentonia State Forest	KDF	762.03
Harlan	Martin's Fork SNA	KDOW	1624.41
Harlan	Stone Mountain SNA	KSNPC/KDFWR	1025.49
Harrison	Griffith Woods WMA	KDFWR	391.37
Hart	Davis Bend	KDOW	165.00
Hart	Frenchman's Knob	Hart County Fiscal Court	87.34
Hart	Hidden River Cave	City of Horse Cave	9.41
Hart	Rush Island Bottoms	KDOW	160.00
Hart	Upper Green River Biological Reserve	Western Kentucky University	1160.20
Henderson	Green River State Forest	KDF	409.34
Henderson	John James Audubon State Park	Kentucky State Parks	15.83
Henry	KSU Environmental Education and Research Center	Kentucky State University	305.99
Henry, Owen	Kentucky River WMA	KDFWR	533.28
Hickman	Obion Creek and Murphy's Pond SNP	KSNPC	198.72
Hickman	Three Ponds SNP	KSNPC	528.25
Hickman, Fulton	Obion Creek and Latourneau Woods WMA	KDFWR	1640.19
Jefferson	Jefferson Memorial Forest additions	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Govt.	591.04
Jefferson	Peterson Forest	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Govt.	98.13
Jefferson	Pope Lick Park (Tyler Schooling tract)	Louisville-Jefferson Metro Govt.	214.65
Jefferson	Putney Pond and Woodlands	City of Prospect	24.31
Jessamine	Camp Nelson	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	58.53
Jessamine	Jessamine Creek Gorge	Jessamine County Fiscal Court	268.77
Kenton	Morningview	Kenton County Conservation District	204.41
LaRue	LaRue County Environmental Education Center	LaRue County Fiscal Court	191.00
LaRue	Lincoln Boyhood Home	LaRue County Fiscal Court	224.97
LaRue	Thompson Creek Glade SNP	KSNPC	105.26
Laurel	Rockcastle Wild River Corridor - Sinking Creek	KDOW	300.97
Laurel	Whitley Branch Preservation	City of London	75.57
Letcher	Bad Branch SNP	KSNPC	1046.94
Letcher	Lilley Cornett Woods	Eastern KY University	n/a
Lewis	Crooked Creek SNP	KSNPC	693.47
Lincoln	Bouteloua Barrens SNP	KSNPC	261.00
Lincoln	William Whitley House	Kentucky State Parks	80.24
Livingston	Livingston County WMA	Livingston County Fiscal Court	2429.92

KHLCF Purchased Properties 1995 – June 30, 2013

County	Project	Agency	Acres
Logan	Baker Natural Area	Logan Conservation District	66.15
Marion	Marion County WMA	KDFWR, Marion County, KDF	1293.20
McCracken	Perkins Creek	City of Paducah	80.27
McCreary	Cumberland Falls State Park	Kentucky State Parks	119.00
Menifee	Broke Leg Falls	Menifee County Fiscal Court	14.82
Metcalfe	Dry Fork Gorge	Metcalfe County Fiscal Court	79.97
Metcalfe, Cumberland	Marrowbone State Forest*	KDF and KDFWR	1955.47
Monroe	Old Mulkey Meeting House	Kentucky State Parks	19.02
Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Ohio	Peabody WMA*	KDFWR	34560.00
Ohio	Highview Hill	Ohio County Fiscal Court	256.71
Ohio	Nature Park	Ohio County Fiscal Court	191.25
Oldham	Morgan Conservation Park	Oldham County Fiscal Court	227.59
Powell	Natural Bridge State Park	Kentucky State Parks	471.00
Powell	Pilot Knob	Powell County Fiscal Ct.	515.93
Pulaski	Buck Creek Preserve	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	35.26
Pulaski	Hazeldell Meadow	Pulaski County Fiscal Court	39.35
Pulaski	Mount Victory Seeps	KSNPC	150.43
Pulaski	William H Martin Wildlife and Watershed Conservation Area	KDOW	458.96
Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming	Blue Licks State Park*	Kentucky State Parks	905.45
Shelby	Clear Creek Park Greenway	Shelby County Fiscal Court	27.02
Shelby	Shelby Trails Park Addition	Shelby County Fiscal Court	75.00
Simpson	Flat Rock Glade	KSNPC	29.97
Taylor	Clay Hill Memorial Forest	Campbellsville University	103.00
Taylor	Tebbs Bend	Taylor County Fiscal Court	172.14
Union, Crittenden	Big Rivers Corridor*	KDFWR and KDF	2483.55
Warren	Cave Springs	Western KY University	2.01
Warren	Lost River Cave	Warren County Fiscal Court	2.25
Wayne, McCreary	Little South Fork Corridor-Burnett WWCA	KDOW	1021.12
Whitley	Archer-Benge SNP*	KSNPC	1863.00
Wolfe	Red Wild River Corridor	KDOW	139.79
		TOTAL	80,698.97

*Other funding sources used as match

**All costs associated with these projects are for the protection, not purchase, of land.

Acronym Legend

Wildlife Management Area—WMA

Conservation easement—CE

State Nature Preserve—SNP

Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area—WWCA

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board Members

The 12-member board was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1994. Five members are appointed from state government agencies, one each from the Department for Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Department of Parks, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, and the Environmental Education Council. Seven members are private citizens selected by the governor from nominations by conservation groups, the Kentucky Academy of Science, agricultural interests and natural resources industries. Dr. Richard K. Kessler has been appointed by the governor to serve as chairman of the board. The citizen members do not receive pay for attending quarterly board meetings and serving on the active committees of the board. The committees review applications and visit project sites, review and monitor site stewardship, and provide advice and recommendations on issues coming before the board.

The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board is staffed by the Department for Natural Resources. Comments regarding this report should be addressed to:

Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board

375 Versailles Road

Frankfort, KY 40601

Phone: 502-573-3080 Fax: 502-573-1692

www.//heritageland.ky.gov

Phyllis Amyx
Agricultural Organizations Representative
Term Expires: July 15, 2015

Hugh Archer
Land Acquisition Expert
Term Expires: July 15, 2015

W. Horace Brown
Ex Officio Member
Chair, Kentucky Environmental Education Council

Steve Hohmann
Ex Officio Member
Commissioner, Department for Natural Resources

Don Dott
Ex Officio Member
Director, Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

Benjy Kinman
Ex Officio Member
Acting Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Franklin D. Fitzpatrick - Treasurer
Kentucky Chapter of the Nature Conservancy
Term Expires: July 15, 2014

Dr. Richard K. Kessler - Chairman
Kentucky Academy of Science
Term Expires: July 15, 2014

George "Bill" Little, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Environmental Organizations Representative
Term Expires: July 15, 2015

Dr. Albert Meier
Kentucky Academy of Science
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

Dr. Paul M. Sheets
League of Kentucky Sportsmen
Term Expires: July 15, 2016

Elaine Walker
Ex Officio Member
Frankfort, KY 40601

KHLCF Staff:
Zeb Weese - Environmental Biologist Consultant

Elena Morgan - Internal Policy Analyst III

Erik Johnson - Property Management Program Analyst II

Angella Reynolds - Administrative Specialist II

Changing of the Guard

Dr. William H. Martin Retires Founding Chairman of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund

When the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board held its first meeting in September 1994, the first chairman was Dr. William H. Martin. Nineteen years later at the July 2013 KHLCF Board meeting, Dr. Martin passed his gavel on to the second chairman in KHLCF Board history, Dr. Richard Kessler. For nearly 20 years, Dr. Martin was at the helm of the state's primary funding source for conserving natural areas in Kentucky. Under his leadership, natural habitat on over 80,698 acres statewide were protected in perpetuity by KHLCF conservation easements and deed restrictions, from wetlands in the Jackson Purchase to caves along the Green River to old-growth forests on Pine Mountain.

Dr. Martin spent decades working on conservation issues in Kentucky before the KHLCF was founded. A native of Tennessee, he came to Kentucky to work as a professor in the Biology Department of ECU in 1969, a position he would hold for over three decades. While at ECU, Dr. Martin led efforts to establish a Natural Areas program and served as director for many years. He also developed a program for long-term ecological monitoring of Lilley Cornett Woods in Letcher County, one of the few old-growth forests left in Kentucky. While at ECU, Dr. Martin published dozens of books and papers on forest ecology including the multi-volume "Biodiversity of the Southeastern United States." In 1992, he became the commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, and was named the first chairman of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board. After leaving his post with DNR in 1998, he returned to ECU, but retained his chairmanship by serving as a representative of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences to the KHLCF Board.

On July 22, 1996, Dr. Richard Kessler was appointed as representative from the Kentucky Academy of Sciences. Eighteen years to the day later, Dr. Kessler conducted his first KHLCF Board meeting as chairman. Since joining the KHLCF Board he has served as chair of the Project Review Committee, which is responsible for assessing all funding applications for land acquisition and management. In addition to his work with the KHLCF, Dr. Kessler is Director of Environmental Science at Campbellsville University and has coordinated The Nature Conservancy activities along the Green River. A native of Green County with a doctorate of environmental biology (with expertise in aquatic biology), Dr. Kessler has a lifetime of experience on the Green River and the importance of conserving the forests and wetlands that protect Kentucky's environmental resources. Upon his retirement, Dr. Martin said, "I am very pleased that Governor Beshear appointed Dr. Richard Kessler as my replacement. He will be a most committed and capable Chairman who will ensure that natural lands acquired by the fund are protected and sound resource management practices are followed. Dr. Meier, an ecologist at Western Kentucky University, is also a welcomed and qualified scientist and resource manager to join Richard in representing the Kentucky Academy of Science on the KHLCF Board."

One of Dr. Kessler's first actions as chairman was to officially dedicate the "Dr. William H. Martin Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area," the last property purchased with KHLCF funding under Dr. Martin's tenure. The KHLCF Board and program staff thank Dr. Martin for his years of dedicated and exemplary service in the protection and conservation of important areas across the Commonwealth.



Changing of the Guard

“It is both a great honor and a privilege to serve as chair of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund ,” said Dr. Kessler on his appointment by Governor Beshear as KHLCF chairman. “Taking the reins from Dr. William H. Martin is a daunting task, but I have great confidence that with the support of a very active and accomplished board and a highly motivated staff that the KHLCF will continue to make great gains in the conservation of Kentucky’s natural lands.”

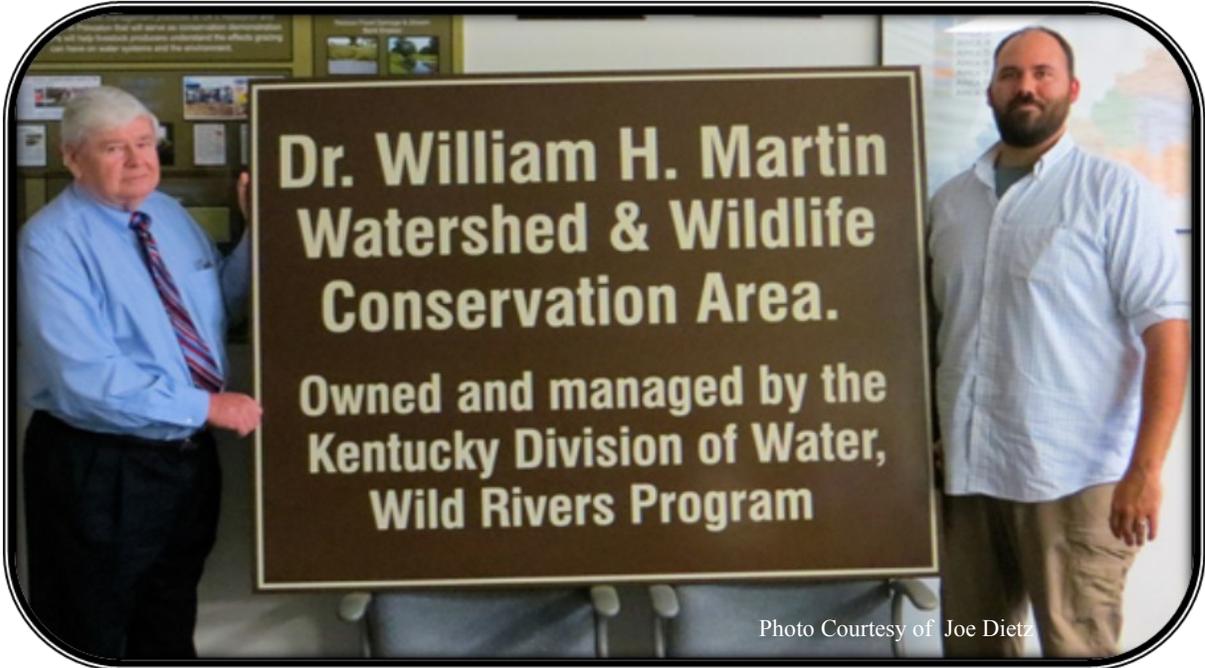
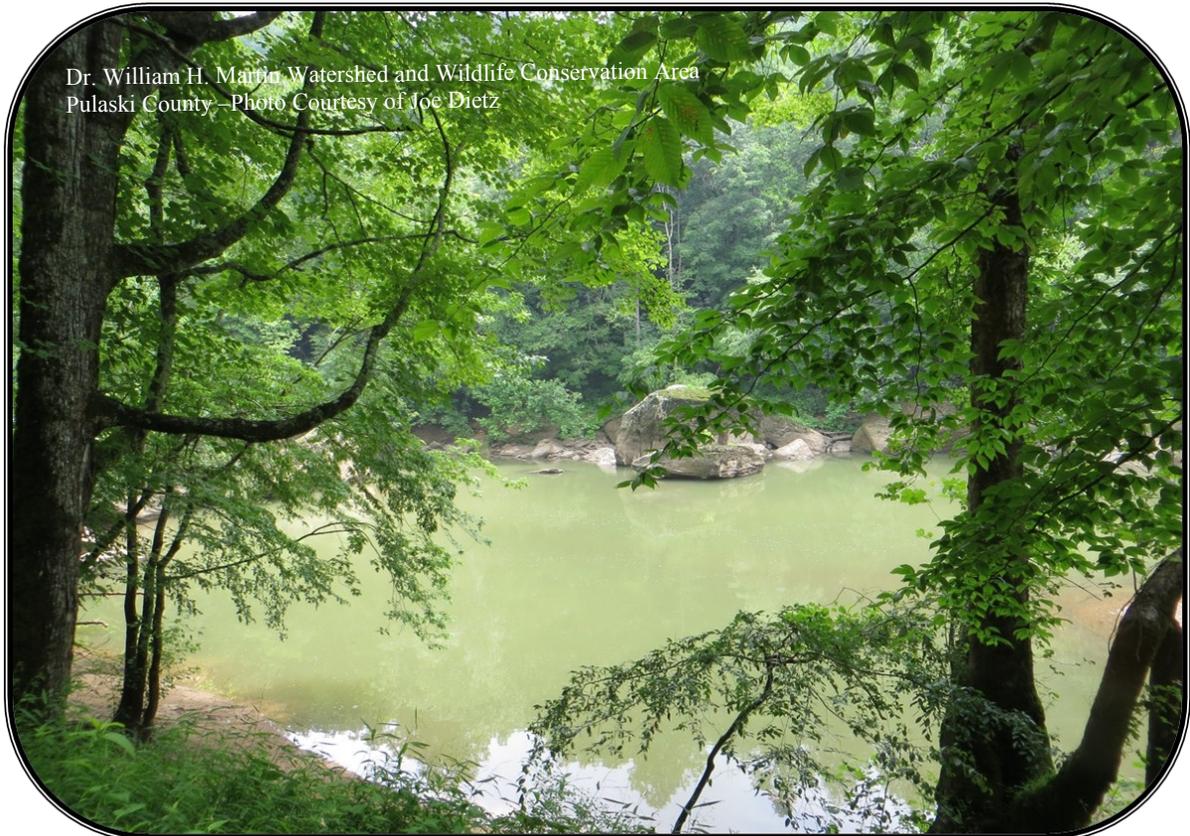


Photo Courtesy of Joe Dietz

**Dedication of the William H. Martin Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area in Pulaski County
Pictured left to right: Dr. Martin and Zack Couch representing the DOW Wild Rivers Program.**



Dr. William H. Martin Watershed and Wildlife Conservation Area
Pulaski County –Photo Courtesy of Joe Dietz

KHLCF Spreading the Word

A portion of KHLCF's funding comes from the sale of "Nature's Finest" license plates. In order to raise the awareness of this valuable program and boost sales of the plates so that more precious areas can be protected, the fund will sponsor a competition for videos to use in a public service announcement (PSA). The competition is open to Kentucky students attending high school, college, university, trade school or professional school.

As of Aug. 15, 2013, the KHLCF is seeking creative and original videos that describe the KHLCF and its importance to Kentucky. All submissions should be either 60 or 180 seconds in length and must address the following questions:

- What does the KHLCF program do?
- Why is this program important to Kentucky?
- Why are sales of the "Nature's Finest" license plate essential to the KHLCF program?

Entries fall in one of two categories: (a) a solo artist submission (one person, one body of work created solely by the entrant); or (b) a group effort submission (production by a group of students).

The entry deadline is June 16, 2014. First and second-place winners will receive cash prizes of \$500 and \$250, respectively. The-third place winner and runner-up will each receive honorable mention and a signed Certificate of Achievement. Winning entries will be posted on YouTube. Rules and detailed information about the 2014 KHLCF Board PS Video Contest can be found at <http://heritageland.ky.gov>.

Help us spread the word about "Nature's Finest!"

